

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. President and members of the body, I, too, could support the amendment, the limit. I question and I will vote against this bill. We have farm organizations, primarily legislative bodies, to handle issues on the legislative end of it in Washington or on the state level or wherever. Their people have the opportunity to vote and take a stand on these legislative rules and regulations. In the checkoff money I see...well, hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars in being able to promote special legislation without representation by the people and I seriously object to this. These checkoff funds were originally proposed to sell the product, advertise the product of which they should be. The only other way that I could possibly support it is that this money could be refunded to the individual producer and by the time that the individual producer got his checkoff money, I'll say for example it could amount to \$250, \$200, \$180. The man that farms about six quarters of ground on corn, his checkoff money somewhere in the neighborhood of \$250. I seriously object to that money being used without him being represented in the decision on who they support politically or who they do not support politically or what this money is used for. We have farm organizations primarily for that purpose and that these farmers can join these any time. They need their help. It's kind of like a free ride back in for the ones that get out and work and do the work on the legislation and then the ones to sit back and not say anything and that's the object of these. And I can see a tremendous amount of money being influenced through this legislation that I really personally don't feel that it is necessary.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner, then Senator Rogers, then Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose the committee amendment and also the bill. I don't feel that we should mandate people for a checkoff system and then use it for political contributions or for lobbying those people that make our laws. I and several other members of the body introduced a bill, LB 334, that prohibits corporations or organizations from requiring political contributions from its membership because I feel that a person, if he wants to give to a political campaign or to lobby legislators, should do it on a voluntary basis. Therefore, I oppose this amendment because I just don't